

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

August 17, 2006



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## City of Eugene

777 Pearl Street, Room 105  
Eugene, Oregon 97401-2793  
(541) 682-5010  
(541) 682-5414 (FAX)  
[www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov)

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### AROUND THE CITY

#### **City Gauging Interest in Re-Use of City Hall**

As part of the City Hall Complex master planning process, the Eugene City Council has decided to proceed with a plan to build a new city hall, because renovating and expanding the existing building for continued use would be more complicated and costly. In order to make informed decisions about siting the new structure, the City Council wants to determine the level of community interest in acquiring the existing city hall building and/or site at 777 Pearl Street.

To gauge the possibilities for use by other parties, the City is contacting over 300 non-profit organizations, government agencies, developers, and any other persons or entities with a potential interest in the Eugene City Hall property.

An informational meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 22, 2006, in the McNutt Room at City Hall. Information about the existing building will be available at the meeting and City staff will be on hand to answer questions and to conduct a tour of the building. An information packet can also be obtained by calling Em Jenson, real property officer in the Facility Management Division at 682-5190 or by email to: [emmy.r.jenson@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:emmy.r.jenson@ci.eugene.or.us).

The City is requesting that anyone interested in obtaining the current City Hall property submit a statement of interest by September 7, 2006. The information packet includes a form outlining the information to be included in the statement of interest. A summary of the expressions of interest received from the community will be presented to the council at the September 20 work session on City Hall siting.

For more information on the City Hall Complex master planning process, please call Mike Penwell, facilities design and construction manager, at (541) 682-5547 or by email to: [michael.j.penwell@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:michael.j.penwell@ci.eugene.or.us)

#### **Airline Magazines Feature Eugene Area and Its Diversity**

"Exploring Eugene" is featured in the August issue of *Destination Oregon*, a special section of Alaska Airlines and Horizon Air magazines. In the article, freelance writer Terry W. Sheely describes how diversity – geographic, climatic and social – makes Eugene a unique area. Photos include pictures of the local farmers market and the Oregon Electric Station in downtown Eugene, as well as rural shots of a covered bridge and the McKenzie River.

"The region is so socially diverse that even the state tourism agency, the Oregon Tourism Commission, has proudly trumpeted the area as 'a place where Bach and boot-scootin' live in harmony, where tie-dye and tuxedos are equally trendy, where small-town charm meets big-city panache,'" Sheely notes in his article.

Horizon Air, sister carrier to Alaska Airlines, offers daily service to and from Eugene. A copy of the inflight magazine has been placed in the Council Office. For more information, contact Airport Manager Bob Noble at 682-5430.

### **Free Wireless Internet Access at All Eugene Public Library Locations (Wi-Fi)**



Free wireless Internet access is now available at all Eugene Public Library locations: the Downtown Library, Bethel Branch, and Sheldon Branch.

Anyone with a wireless-equipped notebook can log on from anywhere in the Library. The Downtown wi-fi "hot spot" extends into the Entry Garden and coffee shop area, and even to the café tables outside, when the doors are open for warm weather.

Internet access is an important and popular Library service. Now that people who carry their own notebook computers can access the Internet by wi-fi, more time on the Library's public Internet access computers is available to better meet demand.

Along with websurfing, wi-fi allows users to sit wherever they choose and visit the EPL website, [www.eugene-or.gov/library](http://www.eugene-or.gov/library), to access Library services such as the catalog, library card accounts, and many of the Library's specialized databases. Wi-fi is especially appreciated by people who need or prefer to use their own computers, such as business people, teachers, or students who need access to their own software or stored information while using the Web. Increasingly, travelers rely on wi-fi hot spots both to stay in touch and to get information about the areas they're visiting.

Wireless Internet access at the Library is made possible by the support of the Eugene Public Library Foundation, which has committed to sponsoring this service for the next three years. For more information, contact the Eugene Public Library, 682-5450.

### **MultiCultural Festival Draws Diverse Crowd**

An estimated 1,600 people representing a broad cross-section of the community attended the fourth annual MultiCultural Festival held at Sheldon Community Center Park on August 11. Library, Recreation and Cultural Services presented the free event that included pre-event swimming, one of the Concerts in the Parks Series (The Vipers with Deb Cleveland), Kid Zone arts and games, and cultural crafts by the Library.



Recreation Programmer Kim McManus, who organized the event, noted a wide diversity in the attendees this year. She said that while the concerts remain a key draw, participation in all festival activities was up from previous years. The festival's International Marketplace also realized a 50% increase craft vendors, including seven representatives from the Regional Association of International Non-profits (R.A.I.N.) that is

based in the Willamette Valley, but works internationally on projects in developing countries. R.A.I.N. vendors sold items from Nepal, Zimbabwe, Burma, Darfur, Guatemala and Kenya.

The MultiCultural Festival meets the City Council goal of "Accessible and Thriving Culture and Recreation," and furthers the council's priority to strengthen and promote the community's arts and outdoors assets by integrating arts and recreation at a free, public event held at an outdoor venue. For more information, contact Sandy Shaffer, recreation manager, 682-6338.

### **City Promotes 'Sustainable Sunday' at Lane County Fair**

A sampling of the City's sustainable activities will be on display Sunday at the Lane County Fair. Staff from several City departments will be on hand at a booth to provide information on City services and

systems that embrace economy, equity and the environment. Some of the more visible sustainable activities include the alternative modes program, the new pesticide-free park projects and the expanded use of hybrid vehicles. Other programs such as energy management systems for existing buildings, partnerships to provide affordable housing, and the promotion of literacy through library programs may be less apparent but contribute significantly to the long-term sustainability of this community.

The booth will feature displays and handouts with information about program areas such as solid waste and recycling, cultural services, planning and development services, parks and open space programs, volunteer opportunities, the City's stormwater management program, and "green" buildings. Facility Management's electric vehicle will be on display next to the booth. The booth will be open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and will be located in the concert mainstage area. For more information, contact Stormwater Education Specialist Kathy Eva at 682-2739 or [kathy.a.eva@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:kathy.a.eva@ci.eugene.or.us).